

# ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



o  
come  
ALL YE  
FAITHFUL  
joyful & triumphant  
o COME YE, o COME YE  
TO BETHLEHEM  
COME & BEHOLD HIM  
BORN THE KING OF ANGELS  
o come  
LET US  
*adore Him*

## CHRISTMAS 2018

Bulletin No 338

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## *BAPTISM*

**"Go therefore .... and baptise"**

30 Sept Floraidh Mary Laing |

-----oOo-----

## *MARRIAGES*

**"Whom God hath joined .... "**

8 Sept Pamela Wright and Ross Nelson

12 Oct Vicki Anderson and Steven Howley

-----oOo-----

## *FUNERALS*

**"I am the resurrection and the life"**

14 Sept Arthur Ferguson

22 Sept Margaret Reid

25 Oct Maud Ryder

26 Oct David Huggins

27 Oct David Connacher

3 Nov Jean Ferguson

6 Nov Ivy Thomson

7 Nov Douglas Banks



Manse of St Mary's

November 2018

Dear Friends:

As I write, it's only a few days until the Motherwell Christmas lights are switched on. Moreover, my computer tells me that there are only 48 shopping days left until Christmas. Without doubt, Christmas is nearly upon us!

Unless you're extremely organised there will be plenty of shopping to be done over the next few weeks. It's never easy to buy the right gifts for family and friends - gifts that they will enjoy and appreciate.

In his book *"All About Christmas"*, the former Moderator Very Rev James A Simpson, gives some helpful advice to those buying Christmas presents for young children: [1] A three year old gets almost as much fun out of a £50 toy as s/he does out of finding a caterpillar; [2] An unbreakable Christmas toy is one that's guaranteed to last until the New Year.

Concerning the latter piece of advice, my mum enjoys telling the story of how a toy drum kit I was given one Christmas was broken and thrown out by my birthday. My birthday is Boxing Day!

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is a central part of our festive celebrations. And yet, have you ever stopped to wonder - **why?**

Most people rightly equate the giving of Christmas presents with the story of the Magi. In Matthew's account of the Christmas Story, he recounts how the Magi brought symbolic gifts to the new born king. Gifts of **Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh**: Gold for a King; Frankincense for a Priest; and Myrrh for someone whose death would be a defining moment in human history.

There is, however, an even deeper and more special reason for giving gifts at Christmas. This reason concerns the love of God for each one of us. For around 2000 years ago, in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the first ever Christmas present was given. As the John, in his gospel, says: **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."** [John 3:16]

This Christmas, as we give our gifts to one another, let's remember Jesus: the greatest gift of all. Jesus, the baby of Bethlehem who grew up to become the man of Calvary.

It's often said that it's better to give than to receive. If that's true, then it's important to give back to God the best that we can. As, Christina Rossetti's famous Christmas Carol **"In The Bleak Mid-Winter"** says:

**"What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give him?  
Give my heart."**

On behalf of myself, my wife Helen, and our family, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a happy and fulfilling New Year ahead.

May the love, peace and joy of Jesus be with you all:

Your Friend & Pastor: **Rev Bryce Calder**





## Home at Last by Tony Church

He's home at last, a mother's son, a fine young man, his duty done.  
Yet not for him the fond embrace, a loving kiss, a smiling face  
Or cries of joy to laugh and cheer the safe return of one so dear.  
It is his lot to show the world a soldier's fate as flags unfurl  
And Standards lower in salutation, symbols of a grateful nation.

Sombre now, the drum beats low, as he is carried, gentle, so  
As if not to disturb his rest, by comrades, three and three  
abreast.

Who now, as quiet orders sound, they, one by one then move  
around

To place him in the carriage decked with flowers in calm and  
hushed respect,

Preparing for the sad, slow ride through silent crowds who wait  
outside.

So the warrior now returns to the native soil and rightly earns  
The great respect to one so young, though sadness stills the  
waiting throng.

While flowers strew the path he takes, as the carriage slowly  
makes

A final turning to allow the veterans standing there to show  
The soldier's price, a silent, mute, proud and respectful last  
salute.

Yet, while onlookers stand and see the simple, moving ceremony,  
There is a home, a place somewhere, where sits a waiting, vacant  
chair,

And one great yawning empty space in someone's heart, no last  
embrace

To bid a final, fond farewell to one who will forever dwell

In love and cherished memory, a Husband, Son, eternally.

And we who see should not forget that in this soldier's final debt  
And sacrifice for duty's sake, it is the loved ones who must take  
The hurt, to bear as best they can, and face a future lesser than  
The one they dreamed in bygone years, now to regard with bitter  
tears,

Reflecting, as time intervenes, on thoughts of how it might have  
been.

But in their grief there's quiet pride that loved ones bravely  
fought and died

Believing in a worthy goal which helps give solace, and consoles  
By knowing that the loss they bear is shared by all our peoples  
where

In gratitude, their names will be forever honoured, guaranteed  
To be remembered and enshrined, beyond the shifting sands of  
time.

## The War Memorial



The War Memorial has been re-gilded making it easier to read the names on both the WW1 and WW2 sections.

The work has taken place due to the generosity of Mrs Elma See (Watt) of Australia, the niece of Private George Watt and Lance Corporal William Watt and daughter of James Watt, Captain of 13 Motherwell BB Company 1923-45. Contributions were also made from the Events Committee and Church funds.

## A Message from Fiona, The Student

As I pen this article for *The Bulletin*, I have been with you now at St Mary's as your student for 5 weeks, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for welcoming me into the body of your kirk. I expect to be with you until Pentecost, so that means roughly about May next year.

So, who am I? Where do I come from? What's brought me here?

Well, as you know my name is Fiona Anderson. I'm married to Tom (a maths and physics teacher), mum to David (a third year Medical Micro-Biology student at Glasgow University), and we live in Hamilton where we are all communicant members of Hamilton St John's. I'm St John's 'born and bred' so to speak, and I've been an elder there for 20-odd years and a congregational board member for 30-odd years, before we switched over to the unitary constitution. In addition to that, I've been a Sunday school teacher; choir member; Girl Guide Captain; church treasurer; I was part of the pastoral care team, primarily because I trained as a bereavement counsellor with Cruse; and I've served on numerous committees over the years, one of which was the nominating committee for our current minister. It's only when I look back now, that I realise that all the learning, training and serving has had a purpose, and has all shaped and formed a relevant part of my current training for ministry.

I'm a candidate in training with the Church of Scotland for OLM (Ordained Local Ministry). This means that my ministry training and studies are part-time, and sit alongside my day-job. For my day job I'm a qualified accountant, albeit I am part of the senior management team in a custodial environment managing all things finance, stores and procurement in a high security prison; home to 700 male residents. Prior to this role, I worked in professional practice; public sector NHS; as well as not-for-profit and the private sector. My current studies (BA Theology) are with Highland Theological College, which is part of the University of the Highlands & Islands. The college is based in Dingwall, but because of the power of technology, I 'attend' lectures by dialling in remotely from my laptop in the comfort of my own home. I currently have 8 modules under my belt: Pastoral & Practical Theology; Systematic Theology; Sacramental Theology; Understanding Worship; Jesus & the

Gospels; Exploring Other Faiths; The Reformation, and The Pentateuch, all of which have been extremely interesting as well as thought-provoking. This semester I'm studying Old Testament Prophets and Early Church History, and after Christmas it's Pauline Theology and Counselling Theology. If all goes to plan, that will then leave me 6 more courses to take, and my degree will (hopefully) finish in 2020....so I've got a wee while still to go! Working and studying means I don't weary! It's hard going, but I'm loving every minute of it.....and the only time you'll really hear me complain is when it's essay submission time, because like buses, they tend to all come at once!

As well as theoretical studies, I have to undertake 2 formal 6-month practical placements, followed by a year's probation. St Mary's is placement number 2; my previous placement was Strathaven Trinity, the former Strathaven Rankin linked with Chapelton, which formed a union (during my placement) with Strathaven East linked with Glassford. After the union 4 congregations went to 3, so I stayed on beyond Pentecost to help out over the summer. However, I did have another placement prior to the Strathaven Churches known as *discernment*, a 6-month placement with the congregation at Bellshill West. Discernment is bit like a trial period where you get to 'dip your toes into the water to see what it's like,' before all the formal interviews and selection conferences take place, to determine whether you can then go forward as a candidate to train. Candidacy training is quite a long process for a variety of reasons, and in between placements there are meetings with 121 George Street staff, training days, candidate conference weekends etc. Following my placement at Bellshill I was encouraged to visit other churches and be anonymous, basically to witness other preachers, congregations etc, given I had spent my whole life in and around St John's. I did that, and it was great to 'get out and about'. However, I did spend quite a few months at Mossneuk Parish in East Kilbride where I was invited to participate in worship by the Interim Moderator, given he's a friend and work colleague, not to mention Prison Chaplain where I work.

As I've said, I'll be with you until just after Easter, so I really look forward to spending the next few months worshipping with you and getting to know you.

With every good wish      Fiona



## THE GUILD

The Guild Session is now well under way and we were entertained by the Inbetweeners at our Opening Social. Marge Patterson, immediate past National Convenor told us about her visit to Malawi. This was most interesting as we heard about how the Guild supports those in Malawi and of the Guild members there, men and women, who sit an exam to join and wear uniforms! We learnt of the strong women of the bible, watching a short film on Ruth and Naomi and were visited by the Rev Mark Johnstone who entertained us with recollections of his visit to Balmoral when he was driven around by HM the Queen and preached on the Sunday at Crathie Church. Most recently Dr Alistair Maddock gave us a most interesting talk on his work with the Air Ambulance Service.

We look forward to more interesting evenings with Rhona Hughes a Big Band singer and our own Ellen Currie. As we draw near to the Festive Season we have our own mini Christmas Market on Monday 26 November. Come along and buy some Christmas presents and cards. St Andrew's Hospice staff will be on hand to sell cards and Christmas items.

We complete our session with a visit to the Bentley for our Christmas meal and wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Valerie T Craig  
President



## THE EVENTS ACTION TEAM

The Events Action Team were delighted to host the Harvest Lunch at the start of October after the Harvest Festival Service. With a packed Avon Hall we were treated to warming soup, bread and some lovely home baking.

Our thanks go to the Y Zone who worked so hard setting up the hall, the home bakers and soup makers, and those who served and cleared up. The new dishwasher was working overtime!

Looking forward to the Festive season, our Christmas trees and decorations will be installed from Tuesday 27 November and we are always looking for helpers to decorate the Church for our Christmas services. If free, we would love to see you.

By way of starting our Christmas events we are again having a:

### **"Christmas Film Night"** **Saturday 1 December at 6 pm**

Over the last 2 years this event has been a relaxing break from the Christmas hustle and bustle where we can sit back and relax with friends and family. Hotdogs, Popcorn, mince pies and refreshments will be served. Tickets priced £5 per group of friends/family will be available in the Avon Hall after the morning services or by contacting the Events Action Team.

Our thanks must go to the congregation for their support at the Church events over the year and look forward together to next year's events.

The Events Action Team

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Monday 1 October saw the start of this year's session and it was good to welcome several new members to a large turnout of the Fellowship, our first speaker of the year was our Minister Bryce, who spoke of his trips to Peru telling of the work being done by aid agencies, giving an interesting insight into everyday life in the country, where great poverty exists alongside wealth and affluence.

Iain Graham, in his talk on Health & Safety opened our eyes to the amount of care, planning and risk assessment that goes into Health & Safety on the construction and operation of Nuclear Power Stations. Iain's talk was enhanced by his many graphs and pictures.

Security was the theme for Robert Park, a retired police officer, when he explained the work of a security officer at football grounds. Robert, presently based at the National Stadium of Hampden Park, showed videos of several serious incidents at various grounds where public safety was at risk. He explained that the role of security officer in close liaison with the match commander from the police was to ensure that fans could enjoy the games in a safe and happy environment.

The Whisky Galore, the theme of Chris Mitchell's talk explored the growth of Scotland's National Drink and its contribution to the economy. Chris's particular interest lies in the fortunes of the Loch Lomond Group distilleries and Glen Scotia distillery at Campbeltown.

Police Scotland drugs expert Kenny Foy kept us enthralled as he talked of the scourge of drugs on society. Kenny showed in video and pictures the cultivation of cannabis in the west of Scotland, where in many cases illegal emigrants were held as virtual slaves confined and living in dangerous conditions to tend and look after the cannabis plants.

His talk though serious was filled with humorous anecdotes. He concluded his talk by taking questions and displaying examples of the drugs now available on the streets from many

prescription drugs to class A drugs Heroin and Cocaine.

The month of October although looking like a fairly hefty programme was filled with interest and humour.

The forthcoming program once again makes use of the talents of a number of our church members, notice of which can as usual be found in each week's church intimation sheet.

The Fellowship breaks for Christmas on Monday 10 December and resumes on Monday 14 January 2019, when Rev John Thomson's talk is entitled "My Heroes"

Be assured that a warm welcome awaits you on any Monday evening you may find it convenient to join us. We meet in the Conference Room at 7.30 pm.

Allan Joyce  
President

### **BASICS FOOD BANK (LANARKSHIRE)**

Please continue to donate to this Christian Project which offers support to those who are at a crisis point in their life. It provides family and single packs of food items, non-perishables and a hygiene pack over a two-week period. All packs are given out on a referral basis to people living in our local area.

Donations can be left in the box in the vestibule of the church or in the cupboard in the church kitchen.





## 6<sup>th</sup> Motherwell Brownies and Guides

Hallowe'en time is here again and the Tuesday Brownies and Guides joined together for the usual fun and games. Some imaginative outfits have been produced by the girls or indeed their parents!



The Tuesday Guides have been dipping in to the new Guiding programme and following the Theme on Know Myself. This theme allows the girls to complete Skillsbuilders which encourage the girls to Reflect on their beliefs, values, morals, cultures and identity. They also look at how to Network using teamwork, goal-setting and building healthy relationships.

They have the opportunity to complete Interest Badges on Aspirations, Human Rights, Guiding History and Personal Brand.

One of the activities the girls have completed was decorating biscuits with emotions designs.



## 6<sup>th</sup> B Brownies

On Monday evenings as part of the "Year of the Young Person", the girls have been learning about those less fortunate than us who have to sleep rough, out in the cold and dark at night.

They built their own shelters indoors and outdoors using cardboard and blankets to get an idea of how miserable and lonely it would be.



They have made a Duvet Cover which has the girls hand prints and names painted on the cover and it is going to be donated to a charity so that someone can benefit from some warmth in the coming wintery months.

A fun keep fit night was held by the Young Leaders, which was finished off by creating and eating fruit kebabs.



They also had an evening learning about Woodland creatures and decorating owl masks.



The girls are planning a Children in Need night in November to help raise funds for that.

### 6<sup>th</sup> A Guides

Following in a similar theme the Thursday Guides are planning a collection for the local Food Bank. They have a number of girls completing the Baden-Powell Challenge Award, the last of the old Guiding programme.

### THE CLEANING TEAM



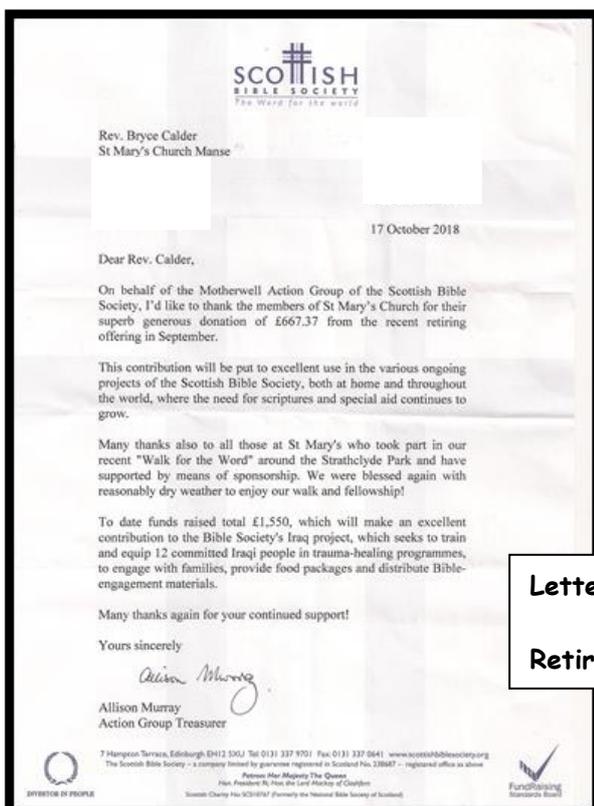
The next church clean team will meet on Monday 3 December at 9.30 am for 2 hours. We will end with our Christmas coffee and treats!



Please bring your own marigolds and old towels to be used as rags

A list of duties has been made up for each room and helpers can choose which job to tackle!  
Your help is very much appreciated.

### The Anchor Boys having fun at Hallowe'en



Letter of Thanks from Scottish Bible Society

Retiring Offering - £667.37

## 13<sup>th</sup> Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

St. Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell



## News from the start of the new session...

### START OF NEW SESSION

We currently have a very healthy 40 boys on the role in the company section with average attendance in the high thirties.

Our first block of our session until Christmas is following our regular programme. Our parade night currently has 2 main sections to it which are then topped and tailed with opening and closing devotions. We have continued with the first part of the night after our opening formalities and devotions where we are focusing on preparations for First Aid, Drill and Bible Knowledge competitions as well as providing an induction programme for the new recruits. For the second half of the night the boys are then split into junior (P7-S3) and senior (S4-S6) age groups for games and activities. As part of the seniors programme we are also making use of the facilities at Ravenscraig and Dalziel for part of the night in order to give the big guys some space to burn of some energy!

We are very fortunate to have a strong committed and enthusiastic team of company section staff who manage to coordinate the organised chaos on a Friday night!

### QUEEN'S BADGE

We currently have 6 senior boys working on the final year of their Queen's Badge programme and should complete their programme for the May 2019 review presentations and we have a further 3 boys in their first year of the QB programme.

### COMPETITIONS

At the time of writing there has only been one Battalion competition. Our junior footballers achieved a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Battalion Junior 7-a-side Battalion Football competition.

We are currently preparing for the first of the drill competitions, the restricted squad drill, and the First Aid and Bible Knowledge competitions in addition to entering 10 pin bowling, swimming, Battalion Senior 5-a-side football and BB National Junior & Senior 5-a-side football competitions that are coming up before Christmas.

### PARADES & SERVICES

We were delighted to host the other Companies of the Battalion on Sunday 28 October here in St Mary's for the annual Founder's Day service. It was great to have the Battalion forming up in the autumnal sunshine in the Duchess Park to march along Cameron Street into church. Rev Calder's talk caught the boys' attention on nicknames and what it means to follow Jesus as a Christian.

We will be on parade in St Mary's with the other uniformed organisations on Remembrance Sunday and are looking forward to playing our part in this important service.

### FOLLOW US

Remember that you can follow our hectic schedule of week-by-week activities by following us on twitter at @captainmaxi

### COFFEE MORNING

Our annual coffee morning will take place on Saturday 1 December and will get everyone in the mood for Christmas with its usual mix of good coffee, home baking, entertainment and good chat among friends! We look forward to welcoming you along.

Our next update will be in the New Year.....have a fantastic festive season from the BB!

Captain Stewart Maxwell



# **13<sup>th</sup> Motherwell Boys' Brigade**

St Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell

**Saturday 1 December, 10-12**  
**Christmas**  
**Coffee Morning**

**Tea, Coffee, Home Baking,**  
**Entertainment, Stalls**

**Tickets £1 available from any boy or officer**  
**(under 12's free)**

**Back by popular demand - Hot Breakfast Rolls!**

**Roll & Sausage, Roll & Bacon - £1.30 each**



## YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

On a Monday night the 6<sup>th</sup> B Brownies built shelters out of blankets and cardboard to experience in a small way how life is difficult for those living rough during the winter. They also made and will donate a duvet to a charity.

NOV/DEC

Celebration



Children of the Mini Zone learning about Remembrance.

Poppies have been created by the young people in all our organisations and can be seen around the church.



Harvest was another special time in the church calendar when our young people were very involved in church life. All the members of our Junior Church brought donations to the service which were donated to Loaves and Fishes charity. The Y Zone decorated the Sanctuary and prepared the hall for the Harvest Lunch.



Karen Maxwell has attended conferences related to the serious matters regarding our work with young people - Safeguarding and Inclusion.

Young people in our congregation will accompany Karen Maxwell to the Men's Fellowship on 19 November to share their experiences of the YOYP - what they have done and how it has impacted on them.

# Junior Church

## Harvest...

It was good to have the children in the Junior Church zones taking part in our morning worship for Harvest. The Mini Zone and Kids Zone both performed their new Harvest songs and this was very much enjoyed by the congregation. We also enjoyed a performance from our Junior Choir ... super singing and groovy actions!

The teachers and helpers wish to thank the parents and friends for donating food gifts to be used by the Loaves and Fishes trust. It was a wonderful sight to see so many children process into the church with their gifts.

## Harvest Preparations...

Well done to our Y Zone for helping to decorate the church for Harvest. I'm sure you all noticed the beautiful window displays and flowers. Their display added greatly to our Harvest service. The Y Zone were also busy making decorations for the Harvest Lunch tables, setting tables and napkin folding - what a lot of hard work on the Saturday night. This was rewarded with pizza! It was lovely that the autumnal decorations were on display for a few weeks to remind us all of the changing of the seasons. Our harvest bread this year was again made by June Graham. We are delighted to report that this was the 42<sup>nd</sup> time that June has made the bread, using a recipe in the Woman's Weekly from 1976!

## Zone news...

The Autumn session will be rounded off with an All Saints Party hosted by the Kid's Zone. The hall will be filled with a life size bible, angels and shepherds, rainbows, and Kings, an Egyptian princess and Mr Noah, a number of animals, cooks making a perfect church and a jelly bean prayer to name but a few. Following a costume parade they will had great fun with lots of messy team games followed by dancing and snacks.

## Be nice in November...

All zones are encouraged to fill a bin bag with old clothes and return on Sunday 25 November. These will be passed on to be reused and will also raise funds for our Junior Church Christmas celebrations. We hope our friends in the congregation can help by filling and returning a bag too.

## Junior Church Christmas dates...

December is a busy month for us all. We do hope that you will be able to join us at our special family services and at our Christmas parties. The children of the Junior Choir and Junior Church departments will be taking part in a number of services and we look forward to sharing our worship with them.

## Parties-

Tots Zone	Saturday 15 December 2-4 pm
Kids Zone	Saturday 15 December 2-4 pm
Mini Zone	Saturday 15 December 2-4 pm

Santa will visit the children at the end of the party.



## Carol Singing by torch light and festive supper and panto!

Sunday 16 December - early evening

Nativity Play Sunday 23 December 11 am.



"Let the little children come to me," Matthew 19:14



Crossreach Sunday is 18 November when we remember the work of Crossreach and other social care providers.

2019 is the 150th anniversary of the Church of Scotland's social care provision and CrossReach plans to mark it with a special exhibition. Do you have any memorabilia from the past such as brochures or invitations which they could display?

The CrossReach website now has a Resources section where you can read and download publicity material such as the latest CrossReach News and Prayer Diary.

### **CrossReach Christmas Angel Appeal**

This is a major appeal to raise £200,000 in support of CrossReach's work providing Christian love and care to families across Scotland. Will you be a Guardian Angel for someone this Christmas time? Download the Angel Bauble from [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk) and return it with a donation to the Crossreach Edinburgh office.

## **UPDATE**

Christian Aid has chosen the theme 'Be a peacemaker' for its 2018 'Christmas Aid' appeal. The charity asks us to stand together with those on the frontline of peacemaking, bringing healing, wholeness and hope to people affected by violence and conflict. Christian Aid helps support frontline peacemakers at work in places like South Sudan, Colombia, Myanmar and Brazil. On its website ([www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)) there are details of workers such as Diana Abbas, the only psychologist working at a children's centre run by Association Najdeh, one of Christian Aid' partners, at Nahr al-Bared camp for Palestinian refugees, in northern Lebanon.

There will be opportunities over the Christmas period for us to contribute to Christian Aid's work, either directly or by supporting our young Christian Aid Support Team when they provide tea and coffee after the service on 2nd December.

Please continue to show your usual generosity by helping Christian Aid to bring peace to traumatised people this Christmas.

Margaret MacGregor

### **Twitter Reminder**

As well as providing recorded services, *St. Mary's Parish Church* now has a dedicated Twitter Address **@stmarysmwell** where details about services and Church events can be found.

Please follow us and encourage your friends and family to do so too. Through the medium of Twitter, we hope to further spread the news of all that is going on in our fantastic Church Family.

I also have a Twitter Address [**@bryce\_calder**] where I share some of my own personal thoughts about such diverse subjects as: church, theology, football, music, ethics, society and politics. You are also very welcome to follow me.



There's a lot of talk today about churches either having to amalgamate or close down due to the fall of attendance. We might feel despondent or worried about this. However, according to a published survey presented by the Humanist Society of Scotland, it reveals many encouraging statistics about faith and belief. We can be sure that it's not what was intended when the research was commissioned! Here are some of the statistics:

- 35.1% of Scots believe in God (interestingly only 32% were willing to say they didn't believe in God, with a further 26.4% saying they were not sure.
- 34.2% of Scots believe in life after death.
- 33% of Scots believe in heaven and 20.4% believe in hell.
- 21.5% of Scots believe in divine miracles from God.
- 28.8% of Scots believe in angels while 24.7% believe in demons/evil spirits.
- 18.1% of Scots believe that there will be a judgement day where God will punish some and reward others.
- 20.8% of Scots say that they pray at least once a week, while 30.2% say that they pray at least once a year. A further 16.7% say they pray, but hardly ever, meaning only 53.1% say they never pray.

If you are interested and want to know more about these statistics you can visit the SBS website - 'Scotland is more Christian than we think' posted September 5, 2018.

We are told that more people are displaced today than ever before - an unprecedented 65.6 million people have been forced from their homes across the globe. As crises unfold around the world, it has led to a huge demand for Scripture among people who long for God's comfort, hope and healing. Nearly 355 million Scripture items were distributed in 2017.

We had a great response to our Sponsored Walk last August and the Motherwell Action Group raised the grand total of £1,640. A splendid result and many thanks to our walkers and sponsors. This amount will go towards the project 'Work in Iraq'.

Please keep on handing in used stamps and foreign coins. This always raises a tidy sum which is then given to Bible House to use at their discretion. Many thanks to the anonymous person who donated the stamp collection. We received £25 for it.

About us:

**Our mission** is to provide God's Word to all people in a language they can understand in a format they can use and at a price they can afford.

**Our vision** is to see communities and cultures transformed as people encounter God in the Bible.

On behalf of our Action Group, I would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Margaret Carrol

**A date for your 2018 calendar: Concert to be held in St Mary's Church Saturday 2 March - 'Constable Ensemble' with Mark Donnelly, Conductor. A concert you will not want to miss.**



## FORTHCOMING SERVICES



### FLOWER LIST

#### DECEMBER

2nd Mr S McCue-Dick  
Mrs S Carswell  
The Guild

9th Mr W Wotherspoon  
Mrs Williamson  
Mrs I Scott

16th Mrs M Jarvie  
Mrs M Wilkie

23rd Mrs F Renwick

30th Mrs A Brown

#### JANUARY

6th Mrs Hardie  
Mrs Munro  
Mrs J Weir

13th Mrs J Rennie  
Mr J Williams  
Mr & Mrs W McNair

20th Mrs M McArdle  
Miss J Graham

27th Mrs N McMillan  
Mrs M Wilson

#### FEBRUARY

3rd Church Choir  
Mrs I Gardiner

10th Miss Kelly

17th -

24th Rainbows, Brownies and Guides  
Mr & Mrs Malcolm

DECEMBER		
2	11.00 am	Anniversary Service with Communion
9	11.00 am	Gift Service
16	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Lessons and Carols for Christmas Carol Singing by torchlight
23	11.00 am 11.15 pm	Nativity Play Christmas Eve Service
25	10.30 am	Christmas Family Service

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Saturday December 1 6.00 pm	Family Film night
Sunday December 16 6.30 pm	Carols by Torchlight (Soup and festive fare in the hall Entertainment provided by Y Zone Pantomime)
Saturday 15 December 2-4 pm	All Zones Christmas Parties
Sunday 2 December	BB Battalion Carol Service



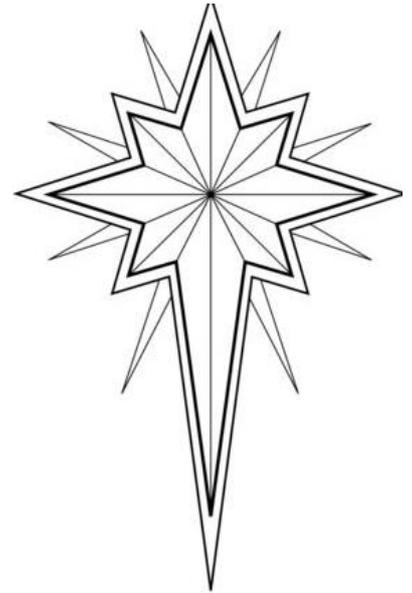
June Graham - Flower Convener

The Prayer Meeting and Vestry Hour - Thursday	
7 pm	Prayer Meeting
7.30 pm	Vestry Hour

## A Prayer For Christmas Day

Father God,

We thank you for Christmas Day -  
this day on which we set aside time  
to relive that first Christmas long ago,  
on which we remind ourselves  
of the wonder of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem,  
on which we remember once more the glad tidings  
proclaimed to the shepherds,  
witnessed by the Wise Men,  
made possible through Mary & Joseph.



Loving Father,

As we give thanks for Christmas:  
help us to rejoice at Your great love in sending Jesus;  
help us to see for ourselves the truth discovered by the shepherds;  
help us to worship Jesus and offer our gifts,  
as the Magi who came before us.

This Christmas, we ask You to use us,  
just as You used Your servant Mary,  
to enter our world.

Take our faith, small though it is,  
take our gifts, few though they are,  
take our love, poor though it seems,  
take our lives, weak though we may be.

This Christmas, Lord God,

We pray for all in our world  
who need your help and care in a special way.  
We think especially of those unwell at this time,  
those missing a loved one,  
those who live in poverty,  
those who daily face the threat of war and violence.

May Your hope, love, peace & joy be with them all - as it is with us  
though Jesus the Light of the World.

All these prayers we make in the Name of Jesus,  
the baby of Bethlehem,  
the man of Calvary: AMEN